



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2007

COUNTY TO CO-HOST PUBLIC MEETING ON ROOT WEEVIL NEXT WEEK *Meetings to Provide More Information on Quarantines, Treatment for Weevil*

The County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) is partnering with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in hosting a public meeting in Solana Beach to inform residents about local infestations of the Diaprepes root weevil.

"I would like to invite residents to come to the public meeting and learn about how destructive this pest is and how much damage it can cause," said County Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins. "Left unchecked, Diaprepes could significantly damage residential landscaping as well as San Diego agriculture."

The public meeting will be Tuesday, July 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Solana Beach Public Library located at 157 Stevens Avenue at the Earl Warren Middle School Campus. Officials will provide information about the quarantines and treatment for Diaprepes Root Weevil.

The Diaprepes root weevil is a significant pest to both agricultural crops and landscaping plants. Quarantines for the Diaprepes root weevil are in effect in several communities in the county, including Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, Encinitas, Fairbanks Ranch, La Jolla and University City.

Residents in the treatment area are being notified of the public meeting by hand-delivered flyers. Treatment for the eradication of the weevil in the Solana Beach area is planned to begin this month and continue through November. Current plans include ground spraying of host plants and trees as well as soil within the infested areas. CDFA will officially lead the eradication effort. County AWM will be coordinating efforts with CDFA and observing the eradication treatments. Homeowners directly affected in the treatment areas will be notified by the CDFA prior to any applications.

Residents can help by reporting suspicious bugs to the CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899 or 619-698-1046. For more information, visit the County AWM's Web site at www.sdcawm.org.

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